

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

recommend such legislation as may be necessary to leave the manner of filling vacancies in county offices no longer a matter of doubt. Section 1299, of the Code, should be made to apply to every officer in the county. Boards of Supervisors should be required to order special elections to fill all vacancies without unnecessary delay, and (as the Constitution fails to provide for filling the vacancies pending the election, often occasioning an interregnum of from 20 to 50 days) the power to appoint temporarily should be lodged somewhere. Section 314, of the Code, only provides for the temporary appointment of clerk, sheriff, or coroner when the vacancy has not been filled in the manner prescribed by law, or on or before the commencement of the term of any court which such officer is required to attend.

COUNSEL IN STATE CASES.

In my Annual Message to your immediate predecessors I called attention to the necessity of making some provision for employing counsel to represent the State in the Supreme Court of the United States, in two cases pending before that tribunal. One was the case of the State vs. the M. & O. R. R. Co.; the other was the case of the State vs. the N. O. & C. R. R. Co. No action whatever was taken upon the recommendation contained in the Message. In May last, I employed Hon. A. M. Clayton, of Benton county, to represent the State. Section 1579, of the Code, makes it the duty of the Governor, when, in his opinion, the interest of the State requires, to employ counsel to assist the Attorney-General in the defense of suits against the State, and to agree with such counsel as to the amount of such compensation, and to certify to the Auditor of Public Accounts that the services have been performed. In the absence of an appropriation for the purpose, the Auditor is forbidden to issue his warrants on the State Treasury in payment of the amount agreed upon. As I was informed that the two cases mentioned would not come up in the Supreme Court at Washington, until sometime after the adjournment of the Legislature in 1877, I preferred submitting the matter for legislative action, in the hope that I might be authorized to employ assistant counsel, whose compensation should be definitely fixed by appropriation. I did not wish to take the responsibility of making a definite agreement with counsel, and trusting to the Legislature to make an appropriation for the compensation promised. I, therefore, placed the whole matter in the hands of your predecessors.

Since my last Annual Message, another case, in which the State is a party, has been carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, and is now pending. It is the case of the State vs. John B. Stone, et al., appealed from Warren county, and is generally known as the "Lottery case."

I repeat my recommendation, and trust you will make an appropriation to defray the expenses of employing State counsel in the Supreme Court at Washington, in the three cases mentioned. It is not possible for the Attorney-General to represent the State at Washington, and the interest of the State requires the employment of assistant counsel.

EXPENSES OF THE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT.

Many complaints have reached me in regard to the expenses of the Judiciary Department of the State. In many counties, it is alleged, these expenses are unnecessarily large. I am aware of the fact that it is not possible that they can be less than during other days, when the number of litigants and criminals before the courts was not as large as at present; but there is no reason why the pruning knife should not be applied to the Judiciary Department of every county, as well as elsewhere. Under the law of 1875, (sheet Acts, pp. 40-43) all the expenses of the Judiciary were made payable out of the treasury of the respective counties where the services were performed. I ask your attention to the matter, confident you will do whatever may be necessary to remove the complaints, if they can be removed without interfering with the due administration of justice.

MUNICIPAL TAXATION.

I desire to call your attention to the subject of Municipal Taxation. Some legislation is needed to put a limit upon the power of cities and towns to levy taxes for corporation purposes. In some instances, taxes are levied in currency by cities and towns in excess of those authorized by the Legislature, for State and county purposes. So grievous has become the burden of municipal taxation, that in many localities the proposition is suggested and seriously entertained of surrendering the corporation charters, and adopting some plan which will secure benefits at least equal to those secured by the charters, and at an inconsiderable expense. While the taxes assessed and collected for the purposes of paying the necessary expenses of the State and counties, are much less than during any year of the past seven, yet the heavy taxes still assessed and collected by many municipal corporations prevent the relief which should be experienced. It is doubted whether the corporations confer benefits at all commensurate with the burdens which they impose.

PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Section 339 of the Code of 1871, allows the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, five days after the adjournment of the Legislature, to bring up the unfinished business, to be paid therefor at the rate per diem they receive for the session. It has been the custom of each house, during the closing hours of its session, to allow, by resolution, a certain number of days to the Secretary and Clerk to complete its unfinished business. An examination of the Auditor's books shows that these officers not only draw their full per diem for the number of days allowed by the Code, but, in addition, for their entire clerical force for the number allowed by the resolution of each house. The labor performed after the adjournment is very slight, never requiring longer than one day. I bring the matter to your attention, as the Legislature may have overlooked the Section of the Code mentioned, and as the compensation for closing labors, allowed by statute, is already more than sufficient to pay for the work performed.

VACANCIES IN THE SENATE.

Several vacancies have occurred in the Senate, during the past year. I issued writs of elections, and the vacancies were filled at the general election on the 6th of November. Elections were ordered in the following Senatorial Districts, to-wit: 14th District, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Henry C. Griffin; 15th District, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. T. C. Catchings; 16th District, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. Amos R. Johnston; 17th District, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. James R. Chalmers.

DEATH OF EX-GOV. CHARLES CLARK.

On the 17th day of December last, Ex-Governor Charles Clark, Chancellor of the 4th District, died at his residence in Bolivar county. In the death of this distinguished son, Mississippi has sustained a great and almost irreparable loss. He was Governor of the State during the most trying and delicate period of her history. He discharged the important duties of that exalted position, as well as those of the many other public positions which he filled during a long and useful life, in a manner that reflected honor upon himself and the people. Eminent as a soldier, statesman and jurist; pure and guileless in private life, he has gone to his grave mourned by the people of an entire State. He died as he had lived, with his harness on, and at the post of duty.

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixt in him that nature might stand up,
And say to all the world—This is a man!"

CONCLUSION.

I feel assured that the people of Mississippi will not be disappointed in their high expectations of you. For the first time in the history of the State, the members of both branches of the Legislature belong almost entirely to one political party. That everything you do, during your present session, will be done with an honest purpose to promote the general good, and to serve all your constituents, regardless of party differences, I entertain not the slightest doubt. May our Divine Ruler direct and prosper your labors, and may all the people of our entire State, of both races and parties, rich and poor, happy and ignorant, for many years enjoy the benefits and blessings that will result from your consultations.

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NEW LINE

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Frames Made to Order

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French Picture Glass,

FREE OF DEFECTS,

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ON THE ROAD.

THE FINEST LOT OF GOODS

FOR THE

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ORDERED AND ON THE WAY.

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STATE STREET,

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E. V. SEUTTER,

Jeweler & Photographic Artist,

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Fine Watches & Jewelry.

Clocks, Spectacles and Silverware.

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STRINGS AND TRIMMINGS.

PICTURE FRAMES,

IN GREAT NUMBERS AND STYLES

With Best French Glass.

FRAMING PICTURES AND MATS

GRATIS!

I KEEP THE BEST OF ALL THE

ABOVE, AND AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES!

E. V. SEUTTER,

DEALER IN

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PLOWS, ETC.,

State Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

HAS ON HAND—A large assortment

COOKING AND HEATING—for Coal or

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ENAMELED GRATES.

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COAL SCUTTLES.

COAL TONGS.

STOVE PIPE—AND ELBOWS.

PARLOR COAL VASES.

SHOVEL AND TONGS.

DOG IRONS.

A large assortment TIN WARE and

HARDWARE of every Description.

99 Box Axes—Collins, and other brands.

Home Furnishing Goods of Every Kind.

All goods sold at LOWEST CASH PRICES.

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DRESS-MAKING.

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FRENCH BONNETS, FEATHERS, ETC.,

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CANVAS, PERFORATED CARD

BOARDS, MOTORS, ETC., all at

Lower Prices than any other Fashionable

Establishment in the City of New Orleans.

Orders solicited, promptly filled and

satisfaction guaranteed.

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CLOTHING HOUSE

IN NEW ORLEANS.

LEON GODCHAUX,

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Children's Suits, 10 to 15 years, \$3 and upwards

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Men's Suits, from \$3 and upwards

Also a full assortment of FURNISHING

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WE INVITE THE ATTENTION OF BY-

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ELEGANT CASH BUSINESS SUITS, (all

wool), Black Cloth, French Serge, Double

OR SINGLE BREASTED, \$30 to \$50

NEW STRIP, BLACK WORSTED, \$18 to \$25

AND YOUTH'S SUITS, \$10 to \$15

ELEGANT CASHMERE DRESS PANTS, \$3.75 and

CHINCHILLA AND DEKAVER OVER-

COATS, \$12 to \$15

COMMON OVER COATS, \$5 to \$10

BOYS' SUITS, \$3 to \$5

AND SCHOOL SUITS—VERY LOW.

Dress Shirts \$1.50 to \$2.50 per doz.—open for

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Genuine English 1/2 Hose, \$3 per doz.

Scarves, Collars and other Novelties.

We guarantee a fit equal to George Meade.

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